UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/1047
9 November 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 9 NOVEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 9 November 1998 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, giving particulars of the Turkish aggression against and invasion of Iraqi territory which began today, and calling upon the Security Council to condemn this Turkish incursion, request the Government of Turkey to withdraw its forces from Iraqi territory and discuss this serious issue at the next opportunity.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-34307 (E) 091198 091198

/...

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 9 November 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 13 June 1998 (S/1998/509), I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the Turkish armed forces have today, 9 November 1998, made a fresh incursion into Iraqi territory.

In this context, I should like to refer to the statement made by the Turkish Minister of Defence, Ismet Sezgin, on 9 November 1998, as reported by the Turkish news agency "Anatolia", to the effect that Turkish forces had launched a military operation in northern Iraq in pursuit of members of the Turkish Kurdish Workers' Party who had been forced to leave their bases in the Syrian Arab Republic in October 1998.

The Government of Iraq strongly condemns these fresh acts of aggression and violations perpetrated by the Turkish armed forces, and categorically rejects the pretexts put forward by Turkey to justify its repeated incursions into Iraqi territory. The claim that they are pursuing rebel elements in order to put an end to their activities does not give the Turkish armed forces the right to invade and violate Iraqi territory. Turkey is in the habit of fabricating flimsy pretexts for such aggressive operations. At the same time, the Turkish Government's policy of cooperating with the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom in imposing an illegal no-fly zone has created an abnormal situation in northern Iraq.

The repeated acts of aggression carried out by the Government of Turkey constitute a serious violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and show disregard for the principle of good-neighbourly relations and the rule of international law.

The Government of Iraq calls upon the Government of Turkey to withdraw its invasion forces from Iraqi territory forthwith, and to refrain from any renewal of such repeated aggressive practices. It holds the Government of Turkey wholly responsible for these acts of aggression inside Iraqi territory and all the consequences thereof, regardless of all the flimsy pretexts it has put forward. The Government of Iraq also reserves its legitimate right under international law to determine the appropriate response to this blatant military aggression and to seek compensation for the losses and suffering caused to Iraqi citizens as a result of these repeated Turkish invasions and violations of Iraqi territory and airspace.

Furthermore, the Government of Iraq renews its appeal to the Government of Turkey to reverse the dangerous policy it pursues in cooperation with the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom, which clearly contributes to the continuation of the abnormal situation in northern Iraq, with a view to implementing a dangerous plan to intervene in the internal affairs of Iraq.

While renewing, through you, Iraq's appeal to Turkey to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, I hope that the United Nations will assume its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations and ensure that the aggression and intimidation to which my country is being subjected are halted forthwith. I would further request you to use your utmost good offices in seeking compliance from Turkey with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and the immediate withdrawal of its armed forces from Iraqi territory.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq